

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

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R 051520Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3901

INFO AMEOBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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LE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MR SS FR

SUBJ: MAURITANIA AND THE SPANISH SAHARA

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 1074; (B) USUN 1887

1. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR MILLOT CALLED ON EMBOFF JUNE 3 TO ASK IF U.S. AMBASSADOR HAD RECENTLY BEEN CONVOKED BY FONMIN RE SPANISH SAHARA. EMBOFF REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY WHEREUPON MILLOT SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO CONVOKED MAY 31. HE REVIEWED MINISTER'S DEMARCHE, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS SAME AS THAT MADE TO OUR AMBASSADOR ON SAME DATE (REF A). MILLOT SAID ONLY REASON GIVEN FOR CALLING IN FRECH AMBASSADOR IS "LONG STANDING CLOSE RELATIONS". MILLOT ADDED THAT MINISTER USUALLY WANTS TO SEE FRENCH AMBASSADOR "TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SOMETHING" AND THIS WAS FIRST TIME HE HAD EVER ASKED FOR FRENCH ASSISTANCE ON SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION.

2. MILLOT WONDERED WHETHER FONMIN HAD CONVOKED U.S. AND
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FRENCH AMBASSADORS BECAUSE OF THEIR COUNTRY'S MEMBERSHIP

ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE THOUGHT FONMIN'S DEMARCHE INDICATED GIRM IS "IN A PANIC" OVER POSSIBLE PRECIPITOUS SPANISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SAHARA AND, PERHAPS, EVEN PLANNED TO REQUEST SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION. "DOES U.S. PLAN CALL SECURITY COUNCIL INTO SESSION?", MILLOT CONCLUDED.

3. EMBOFF REITERATED U.S. POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN SPANISH SAHARA DISPUTE AS WELL AS OUR LONG STANDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL PARTIES TO DISPUTE. HE ADDED MILLOT'S SUGGESTION OF SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION WAS FIRST TIME HE HAD HEARD THIS POSSIBILITY RAISED AND DOUBTED U.S. WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO CALL COUNCIL INTO SESSION. (REF B, WHICH CONTAINED SPANISH LETTER TO SYG OF UN RESERVING RIGHT TO CALL UPON SECURITY COUNCIL, HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED HERE)

4. COMMENT: BELIEVE FRENCH ARE CORRECT IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF GIRM FEARS SHOULD SPANISH PULL OUT OF SAHARA QUICKLY. IN THIS SITUATION MAURITANIA WOULD BE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE, WITH ITS POLITICAL MODEL AND MENTOR ALGERIA AND ITS NEW FOUND "FRIEND" MOROCCO CONTESTING, POSSIBLY BY FORCE, THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SPANISH SAHARA. HAVING RECENTLY BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, GIRM IS NOW SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT OF ITSELF IN THAT FORUM. HANDYSIDE

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